

REMARKS

New claim 21 is added herein. Claims 1-21 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1-9 are allowed. Claims 13-20 are objected to.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under Matsumoto. Independent claim 10 recites a print head to eject ink towards a paper and a frame forming a hole to pass the ejected ink not received by the paper. As previously noted, the ejected ink is ejected towards the paper. Thus, the ink which passes through the hole is ink that is ejected towards the paper.

In response to this previous argument, the Examiner relies upon FIGS. 11 and 12 of Matsumoto. However, FIG. 11 of the reference does not illustrate ink passing through a hole. Instead, the ink is received by the paper P1. Although FIG. 12 of the reference illustrates ink passing through the hole, this ink is not ink that was ejected towards the paper. Instead, the ink is ejected towards the ink drop absorbing member 8, while the papers P1, P2 are not over the hole. In particular, column 8, lines 19-26 of Matsumoto indicate that the ink is ejected towards the ink drop absorbing member 8 to perform nozzle clog preventing ink ejection.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

New claim 21 recites that the ink passes through the hole when the paper partially covers the hole. However, FIG. 12 of Matsumoto illustrates that the papers P1, P2 do not partially cover the hole when the ink passes through the hole.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

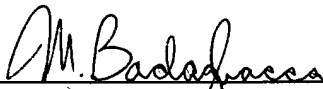
Serial No. 10/642,689

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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